(4) Closer interaction ana follow up with the forest Deptt. at the State Govt, and the MOEF is being undertaken to expedite the issue of forest clearance.

White Paper on Defence

1877. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an internal Indian Navy document has recently ex pressed discontentment over the Defence Service being marginalis ed in the process of national level security policy and has asked for a White Paper on Defence;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) A document has been prepared by the Indian Navy which deals wih various factors impinging for national security. The document is being studied by the government .

National Security Council

1878. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: DR. B. B. DUTTA: SHRI RAGHAVJI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently constituted a six-member National Security Council (NSC) under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister to undertake a strategic defence review;

(b) if so, the main functio of this three-tier Council; and

(c) whether Government have examined/accepted any other re-commendations of the three-member Task Force, headed by former Defence Minister, Shri K. C. Pant$_s$ on whose recommendations above mentioned NSC has been constituted?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) A six member National Security Council (NSC) has been set up. Tne Strategic Policy Group under the NSC will undertake the strategic defence review as one of it$_s$ priority tasks.

(b) The functions of the NSC would include reviewing, monitoring, mak'ng long-term prognoses and considering policy options on all aspects of national security of the country.

(c) The recommendations of the K. C. Pant Task Force were taken into consideration in the Govern ment decision on setting up the NSC.

Nuclear command and control system

1879. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a nuclear command and control system is being evolv ed;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the organisation/ Structure under the Department of Defence to handle safety and regulation of Defence Nuclear Activit'es including weapons development and deployment;

(d) the details thereof; and